--- 1/8th Pound - "Series of 1883" - BLUE - 255 x 15 mm. ---

--- Recess printed by hand press in Montreal on horizontal mesh wove paper - with 4 mm. red controls ---

John McKay records that 606,600 copies of "1/8th Blue '83 Tobacco", *recess printed* by hand press, were 'delivered' under the **3rd BABN Contract** (1878-1886), and on a separate line that 148,787 *lithographed* copies of "1/8th Blue Tobacco" were 'delivered' under the same 3rd Contract. Most likely these *lithographed* copies were "Series of 1880-81" Customs strips which the cancellations show were last being used in 1884.

John McKay further records that 1,079,700 copies of the "1/8 lb., Blue Ribbon, Tobacco", *recess printed* by hand press were 'delivered' under the **4th BABN Contract** (1886-1892). On that same line, he reports that an additional 200,225 *lithographed* copies were 'delivered'. These were the remaining blue 1880-81 Customs strips sent to Ottawa in the summer in 1887 for disposal.

John McKay adds that 351,508 copies of "1/8 Blue Tobacco", *recess printed* by hand press, were 'delivered' under the **5th BABN Contract** (1892-1897). On that same line, he reports that an additional 63,117 *lithographed* copies were 'delivered'. These were probably remnant 1880-81 strips returned by an Area Collector and sent for disposal.

Finally McKay adds that 100,980 copies of "1/8 lb. Blue, Tobacco" (*recess printed* by hand press) were supplied under the **5th BABN Supplement** (1897-1898). These sheets had been previously printed under the **5th BABN Contract** and remained in BABN stock when they lost the printing contract to ABN in 1897. By mutual agreement these were made available to the Department, while ABN worked 'up-to-speed' with their die preparation and the printing of the "Series of 1897".

3rd BABN Contract - October 22nd 1878	606,600 recess (hand press)	**000001** to **606600**
4th BABN Contract - October 22nd 1886	1,079,700 recess (hand press)	**606601** to 1-**686300**
5th BABN Contract - April 23rd 1892	351,508 recess (hand press)	1-**686301** to 2-**037808**
5th BABN Supplement - (1897-1898)	100,980 recess (hand press)	2-**037809** to 2-**138788**
	2,138,788	

With 2,138,788 strips printed, the control number listing only provides an approximation of the relative abundance or scarcity of this item, and placing them in the apparent control numbered order is not intended to indicate when they were actually printed - i.e. the million prefix has been omitted by BABN. Upon reaching **999999** the control sequence has repeated twice by reset to **000001**. Proper ordering would require the notation of the cancellation, the type of separation, plus the paper of printing.

The catalogue lists the recess printed "Series of 1883" blue 1/8th pound strips as follows:

RP-613 - 1/8th pound, perf 12, recess printed by hand press on horizontal mesh wove, with 4 mm. blue controls
RP-614 - 1/8th pound, *coarse roulette*, recess printed by hand press on horizontal mesh wove, with 4 mm. blue controls

RP-613n - 1/8th pound, blue, perforated 12, *without* control numbering,
recess printed by hand press on horizontal mesh wove - 255 x 15 mm. design

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1/8th pound, an imperforate plate proof, recess printed by hand press on horizontal mesh thick wove - 255 x 15 mm design

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--- RP-613 - perforated 12 - 255 x 15 mm - scanned at 67% scale ---

RP-613 - 1/8th pound, perf 12, recess printed by hand press on horizontal mesh wove - 4 mm. control number **983442**
Date stamped **02 88** in July 1888, back stamped **B.F. ELDREDGE**

983442★	07/88	RP-613	1/8th pound, perf 12, recess printed by hand press on horizontal mesh wove, stamped **02 88**, and back stamped **B. F. ELDREDGE**
1-**551539**★	11/90	RP-613	1/8th pound, perf 12, recess printed by hand press on horizontal mesh wove, stamped **09 90**

--- RP-614 - *coarse roulette* - 255 x 15 mm - scanned at 67% scale ---

RP-614 - 1/8th pound, *coarse roulette*, recess printed on horizontal mesh wove - 4 mm. control 1-**366099** - 255 x 15 mm design
With an *inverted stamping* **CANCELLED** in 3 mm. Gothic letters

RP-614 - 1/8th pound, *coarse roulette*, recess printed on horizontal mesh wove - 4 mm. control 1-**420060** - 255 x 15 mm design

RP-614 - 1/8th pound, *coarse roulette*, recess printed on horizontal mesh wove - 4 mm. control 1-**429290** - 255 x 15 mm design,
Badly broken and mounted on light cardboard, rollered **Toronto / CUSTOMS / TOBACCO**

420060★	RP-614	1/8th pound, coarse roulette, recess printed by hand press on horizontal mesh wove
429290★	RP-614	1/8th pound, coarse roulette, recess printed by hand press on horizontal mesh wove, roller cancelled **Toronto / CUSTOMS / TOBACCO**
1-**366052**★	RP-614	1/8th pound, coarse roulette, recess printed by hand press on horizontal mesh wove
1-**366099**★	RP-614 CP	1/8th pound, coarse roulette, recess printed by hand press on horizontal mesh on wove, with an *inverted* **CANCELLED** in 3 mm. Gothic

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All of the stamps (bearing 4 mm. Gothic ***violet control numbers**) seem to come from the “Series of 1883”. In a similar parallel, all of the stamps (bearing the Lee Brandom 5 mm. Roman ***light blue controls***) seem to come from 1880-81. I feel that these were prepared by BABN for Philatelic Exhibitions in 1880-81, and in the mid-1880’s. Only a few examples can be found on *block watermarked* paper which indicates that they were from around 1883.

There are a couple dozen examples in the collection most of which came from the “Ferrari” collection purchased from Erling van Dam. All of the other stamps in the “Ferrari” collection pre-dated 1900.

1/8th pound, perf 12, with violet 4 mm. Gothic control **7 1 4 7 5**,
Recess printed by hand press on *unwatermarked* horizontal mesh wove

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File path is [c:\ CR - STAMPS \ RP_STAMPS \ 1883 \ Blue \ 1-8 pound - 255 mm],
In MS Word 2007 for Windows 7,
Formatted for a HP CP 1525 Laser Jet,
September 25th 2013 - JBH